4/4/72

Dear Jerry,

When you phoned last night I got a small set on which I know I can get WBBC because I had before, started listening, and then the battery pooped out. I put in a fresh one and heard the rest of the show, except for occasional fading...You simply must tell the phone company to do something about your bad line when you call talk shows!

As a matter of record, I would appreciate Robert's cassette taping. The quality of the signal here is such that I could not do it. When it was good it was not good enough for taping. I would like the full tape as a matter of record. I missed most of the first hour. I made notes on the rest that I did hear.

As you now know, exactly what I told you he would do is what Frank did in anyswer to your question on the spectro. However, he response to what I suppose was Robert's needle about Dwyer may be helpful in court. He is too sharp for the Approach Jim asked you to take, and if you'd known the subject well enough or been careful enough in listening, you'd have spotted how careful he was to vover Hoover personally. He did <u>not</u> tell the truth, for example, about what Hoover told the women correspondents.

Some of it was pretty farout. There is a big favor you and Robert together can do me on this if you can get together over a weekend soon. You could do what I will not be able to, prepare short excerpts on individual cassetttes. I can then snap each into my little recorded and play them to his face if he shows and instead of him, his voice, if, like Foreman, he doesn't. I can ruin him with some of it, and I think he knows it and although he has agreed to a confrontation, will not show. For this purpose, and because it means a tougher tape that can be used more, I'd appreciate it if Robert would get some 15 minute cassetttes/ Sony makes them. One came with the machine that was given me a year ago. Each one can be used for two items, one on each side. If they are not numbered, and if you can do this, please put no mark on them. I will then play them and tape the excerpt I want on each face and paste that on. I will be asking to get on the Long John show, relatively unimportant as it is, and would also want to do this there. I may want to make other uses on the air, so the 15 minute, tougher cassetttes can be important. There is at least one case where I'll ask you to go back and put a second excerpt on the same side, where he gave different versions.

These two can appear on one side, with a short break in between:"There are no legal reasons for the case to be opened." (This is where he was talking aboutRay's appeals, I think. Then the question about suppose he had not dropped the gun, etc. Include the question and his answer. I think he said he had never thought of that. I know he said "There was nothing to tie him to that Rooming house." He repeated this and said there were not prints init. I don't thing the repetition is necessary, for in such uses the shortest possible exceppts is vital. but I think he also said there are no prints to tie him to the house, and that should be included on that cut. Perhaps if it is a single sentence, that too should be included. It is where he said the only thing that ties Ray to the crime is the rifle. Maybe it would be better to put this on the second side and with it another short excerpt, because I am looking for short things to throw at him to avoid possibility of host objection or his fillibuster (I'll time each side when I label the way I want). Then on this second side include, "They had not a single eyewitness. They had circumstantial evidence, which is better than human evidence", because humans err.

Maybe it would be a good idea to have one cassette on Stephens. At about this point in the sequence he said that Stephens is not a dependable witness and wouldn't hold up. To this could be added the part where he talks about what Stephens allegedly saw and the part about the bathroom and Gracie's need for it.

Keep this for a blank side. I don't want to run the cost up. But it could make a beautiful coup de grace:"Obviously, I'm a non-fiction writer."

This is an aside for your information: years ago I did this with Liebeler. short, timed excerpts in his own voice and it was wow! oh radio and TV.

When Mebel aked fmr that deathless account of what happened beginning at 6 p.m.(sorry, I'm having to use other than a Hermes ribbon, one for an IBM machine that was given to me and it doesn't fit and sometimes jams) there is a line that goes "He looked out the window. He had a perfect view". This relates to the bedroom. With this, on the same side, with a short break, should be that wierd account of his running back and forth to the bathroom, so I can ask why with a "perfect view" he had to run to the bathroom to make the short. Either on this if it is short enough or on a separate side, the bit about Ray standing in the tub for the shot. This immediately preceeds, I thin, the bit about the bedroom-bathroom shuttle. I think it is worth a separate side if I get to confron him to have a second version, where he says that at one minute to six Ray was sitting in the chair in the bedroom and then dshed into the bathroom. I have two purposes, so you can understand of so that Robert, if he can borrow your machine and tape, which would permit him to do this alone, can understand. First of all it was physically impossible to see anything sitting in the chair. I was there. Second, why the shuttling back and forth. and third, suppose Gracie was in there. It might be a good idea to repeat the second version on a second side, and have this on a single cassettte, the part about Gracie's need for the bathroom. I'm surprised Frank gave two different, illogical accounts of the same thing. He is sharp. Here also he says Ray stepped into the bathtub and rested the rifle on the windowsill. The part about the resting the rifle on the sill is important, so this version may be better than the earlier one. I would like a single side saying this, so I can say, "Did you try it. Mr. Frank"? I have my own pictures now and I did and it is impossible.

What is really insane is the part where he says Ray had only one bullet in the rifle because he had no time for more. Maybe he said it twice. If he did, then the part that has Frank saying that there was a clip and he could have out more bullets into the clip later but he had to put this one bullet in by hand is vital. I will then hand him the rifle and ask him to do what he said. It is really tough to put a bullet into a pump gun. Just this description of the putting the single bullet in and the privision for the clip, as short as it can be excerpted, is really important. So you can understand, a pump gun is completely encased. It is not like a bolt-action rifle. I'll blow him in St. Louis on this and as soon as I can expect the man I gave my rifle to to sell for me is awake I'm phoning him to get it back. It is worth it for this one think on TV! Especially if we can get more than a single show on this.
Separate side, the part where Frank says the shop looked empty, dirty windows, door closed. As breif as possible. Then add the part where he uses Canipe's name (he mispronounced it so I'm sure he didn't interview him) and has him going to the door and opening it. Just these two on a side as briefly as possible. I'll then hand him the picture I got by suing Justice, with the door open and the packe projecting inside the open door. I think his exact words are short from my notes,"Canipe went to the door and opened it."

At one point where it faded, so I can't be sure, Frank said he'd been in correspondence with Ray. If this is so, I'd like that one one side of a cassette so I can read the correspondence. It is nothing like the impression Frank seeks to give. He offered Ray $5,000 an hour for an interview in which he guaranteed to ask nothing about the crime. It is important not to talk about this at all.
The part where he talks about false identifications, short as possible, the reference to gravestones and to birth notices only, so I can show him the "Starvo" signature and ask him if the signature came from either. Separate side, natch.
Not as important but helpful for a single cut, a single side, would be two different versions of one thing: Before this point in the sequence he had said that Ray faced a choice between execution and 99 years and then, forgetting this, he said that Ray knew that no white man had been killed in the south for killing a black man.
Earlier, what could be helpfu, he says that Sgt Gormley broadcast on his walkie-talkie about a white Mustang fleeing the scene. This is where he talks about the 12 cops at the firehouse. Then he says Ray got lost and made many bad turns (yet he never talked to Ray) and then he says he was gone before any roadblocks. I know what he is confusing here and it has to come from Huie, so the two things, the Gormley walkie-talkie broadcast on the

one hand, followed by the part about Ray getting away before the roadblocks could be set up on the major highways, bracketed with Ray's getting lost, will sound, if properly excerpted, like Kafka and could be good. This remainds me of something he said elsewhere that is short and I'd like on a separate side, where he talks about all of his book being new and unpublished. It could be dynamite right after this, for this comes from Huie's notes and I have a letter I can show from Huie showing that he gave all his stuff to Frank who is using it. That short bit and this Huie letter can, if I correctly estimate Frank's emotions, drive him crazy.

Not important for use against Frank but of possible value to me on a separate cassettte, with nothing on the second side except maybe a few on the many cases where Mebel describes this as the book to end all books, describes it as the true story of the King assassination (one place easy to get is the close of the show, but it was on every break,), is where I think Robert tried to ask about Frame-Up, which is the only book on the other side. I think that Jerry can understand the possible relevance of this in the fairness doctrine. On the one had he has two sycophants as huests, then he has this notions that the Frank book is the most, and then when a listener wants to ask about the only book on the other side or to refer to something cited in the only book on the other side, Mebel said, "I am not a fan of Mr. Weisberg. I think he does a good job of raising chickens." Big, but Robert off. I think, am sure, that he also said "We're not talking about Frame-UP" before the cut-off, and that should be included in what despite the above will be a brief cut. It shows the one-sidedness and the bias. (It is true he is not my fan. Nobody has ever taken him apart as I did in the summer of 1966. He'll never forget me.)

Perhaps not important, perhaps so, I can't tell until I hear it, is thepart where Frank discusses the shot and what it did to King. "The bullet struck King...Lodged in the backbone." and Then he says the bullet couldn't be traced to the rifle but that Ray bought the bullet and the shell. Perhaps as a separate thing right after this, the short part where Frank says this was a "hollow-bosed bullet". If so, leave a short space in between, maybe 7-8 seconds, befause it wasn't a hollow-nosed bullet.

Separate side again, where Frank says he began with the assumption there was a conspiracy. I am pretty certain I have a quote saying the opposite, from long before he started, when the contract was announced. It would be good to include, even if it means leaving a bit out to have ti short, that he then visualized only a Peking or Havana conspiracy!

The fairness-doctrine thing above should be on a separate cassette, for it is not for use against or face-to-face with Frank. I have tried to keep these few. If doing the above leaves a blank side, Then one or both of two things, with a short interval between them could go on the blank side. I would not ask a separate cassettte on them because of cost, which I want to keep minimal. Frank gives this great description of his investigation, he spent four whole years investigating,day and night, seven days a week, etc. I know he didn't interview any single important witness from Ed. The second could be where I listener asked how the rifle led to Ray and Frank's answer that didn't make sense, that it led to a false name not connected with Ray. He goes into the serial numbers, tec., and that is not important. Reduce it to the question and the answer that Ray bought the rifle using a fake name.

Oh, yes, something of which I did not make a note and now remember(it is early a.m. after a short night so I can mail this when I take Lil to work), his great account of Ray's inquiry into the trajectories at the gunshop, which one carried further. Make this a full or fairly full excerpt because it is just backward. The first rifle has the longer range and the flatter trajectory. I'll hand him the manufactuerers lit when I play that.

Excuse haste and no correcting errors, but I'm tryung to get this to you as fast as possible in the hope that Robert can do this for I not only won't have time but one of my machines is on the fritz and I can't do it anyway. It could be something, tough, for any confrontation. Thanks to both, whether or not you can do. Regards to Chris.